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Subject: Pacific Crest Trail Corps Crew Program FY13

To: U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Recreation Staffs

As part of our mission to engage youth in the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT) program, each year we dedicate a portion of CMTL-PC funds to regional youth corps crew programs. For FY 2013, we'll coordinate a trail-wide youth corps program in partnership with Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA) and the Bureau of Land Management. As in the past, PCTA will provide coordination, crew leader training, logistical arrangements and technical oversight for the corps crews. New to the process this year, a PCTA regional representative will be coordinating the allocation of corps crew weeks within each PCTA region (attached is a breakout each unit in the PCTA regions). By getting a start on this process this fall, we hope to avoid some of the coordination difficulties we've encountered in past seasons. *Note: Forests and BLM staffs may request funding through the Call for Projects for a project that uses youth corps for shorter durations. That request is considered separate from the process outlined below and is not considered part of trail-wide PCT Corps Crew Program.*

To maximize success and productivity, agreements for the youth corps program(s) will be through the Pacific Southwest Regional Office and the CA State Office of the Bureau of Land Management. Considering scarcity of resources, units in each PCTA region do not receive an equal numbers of corps crew weeks in any given year. Based on historical USFS CMTL-PC funding levels, PCTA regions will receive, **at most**, the following number of corps crew weeks in 2013:

Region	USFS Corps Crew Weeks	BLM Corps Crew Weeks
North Cascades	6	0
Columbia Cascades	7	0
Big Bend	9	0
Northern Sierra	8	0
Southern Sierra	4	0
Southern Cal	3	12

In this process, units will work with PCTA regional representatives to collaboratively decide how corps crew time is allocated, according to the following process:

1. PCTA regional representative will contact each unit, including other PCT stakeholders on that unit (e.g. Backcountry Horsemen), to solicit discussion on PCT projects for the upcoming year.
 - o On units with fewer PCT miles or stakeholders this may be done more informally, but in most cases this will require a meeting.



- The result of this discussion should be a clear ranking of each unit's top PCT projects that are well-suited to youth corps labor.
 - 2. After each unit's priority projects have been collected, the PCTA regional representative will facilitate another meeting with representatives from all units in that PCTA region to determine the priority of projects
 - As a group, unit representatives will evaluate the relative priority of top projects from each unit, and strive to reach consensus on overall order of priorities for this year's PCTA region-wide corps crew program based on an estimated number of weeks to be awarded to each region. In situations where consensus cannot be achieved, the USFS PCT Manager or the BLM California State Office NLCS program lead will make the final allocations.
 - The result of this discussion will be a proposed draft region-wide corps crew schedule, based on the projected maximum number of corps crew weeks, for the 2013 season.
- Projects should be ranked numerically with one being highest priority--in the event that less funding is available for the corps crew program, projects will be cut based on ranking.
3. A post season review of the corps crew program, including the allocation process, will be facilitated by xxxxxxxxx(PCTA), Gail Throop (USFS R6), Mark Conley (CA BLM State Office) and myself,

This process is intended to be collaborative in nature and as efficient as possible. Details of the corps crew planning process will fit the situation in individual PCTA regions. It is our intention that the most important PCT projects be prioritized based on the need for ecological restoration, public safety, resource protection, repair due to catastrophic events and the opportunities to leverage partnerships. Top priority will be given to projects that are located within the PCT corridor. We look forward to our continued partnership and provide ecological restoration opportunities for youth.

Best Regards,

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